

## **Abstract**

Bachelor thesis „The role of religious and ethnic diversity of Iraq in the U.S. administration's decision to overthrow Saddam Hussein in the years 1991-2003“ deals with the issue of American foreign policy making regarding the Iraq regime of Saddam Hussein from the first Gulf war in 1990-1991 to the second Gulf war in 2003. The thesis concentrates on what was the role of ethnic and religious diversity of Iraq in the decision making process, precisely did this crucial factor influence the decision. Although during the first Gulf war the aspect of religious and ethnic diversity was very much taken into account, and was in fact one of the reasons for the decision not to overthrow Hussein's regime, during the second Gulf war the factor had been totally ignored which led to an afterwar violence which cost tens of thousands of casualties. The thesis concentrates on what was the reason to ignore this risk in the second Gulf war when it was taken into consideration during the first one, regarding the fact that both administrations had very similar personal and political basis.